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# Program Memorandum Intermediaries/Carriers

Department of Health and  
Human Services (DHHS)  
HEALTH CARE FINANCING  
ADMINISTRATION (HCFA)

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Transmittal AB-01-44

Date: MARCH 15, 2001

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## CHANGE REQUEST 1540

**SUBJECT: Binding Contractor Hearing Officers to Local and Regional Medical Review Policies (L/RMRP)**

This Program Memorandum (PM) serves to bind contractor hearing officers (HOs) to contractor-issued L/RMRP. This PM is being issued to expedite distribution of the instructions and will be incorporated permanently through revisions to the Medicare Carrier Manual (MCM), the Medicare Intermediary Manual (MIM) and the Medicare Program Integrity Manual (PIM).

HOs must comply with L/RMRP. (See Chapter 1 of PIM, ' 2.3.2.3 for procedures for developing and adopting L/RMRPs.) Binding an HO to L/RMRP means that the HO must apply pertinent L/RMRP to the facts of a given claim and that the HO may not disregard or override an applicable L/RMRP. This PM affects MCM ' 12016 and MIM ' 3794.4 . Authority for this PM is found at 42CFR ' 405.836, the regulation delineating the authority of HOs.

**The *effective* date for this PM is March 15, 2001.**

**The *implementation* date for this PM is March 15, 2001**

**These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.**

**This PM may be discarded after December 31, 2002.**

**If you have any questions, contact Rosalind Little at (410) 786-6972, e-mail [RLittle@hcfa.gov](mailto:RLittle@hcfa.gov) or Steve Miller at (410) 786-6656, e-mail [SMiller1@hcfa.gov](mailto:SMiller1@hcfa.gov).**